

M. 24,360

DEC 3 1965

CPYRGHT



**EX-CASTRO CHIEFTAIN TELLS HIS STORY**  
Major Pedro Diaz Lanz, left, and Donald E. Newcomer Jr.

# International Conspiracy Described by Ex-Castroite

By JIM SCHELLHAMMER.

A former Cuban Air Force commander, who fled the Castro regime, made a plea Thursday for all Americans to be on guard against "the invisible hand of an international conspiracy intent on taking over the world."

Major Pedro Diaz Lanz, who with his wife and family, escaped to Miami in 1959, claimed the conspiracy which overcame Cuba and threw it into the communist camp is at work in this country on high levels.

He said it was not Cubans who chose Communism, but rather a small number of traitors, who furtively moved into positions of influence that allowed the Castro takeover.

Diaz Lanz spoke before a paid audience of nearly 150 persons last evening in the Lawrence Hotel ballroom. His appearance was sponsored by the Erie Chapter of the American Public Opinion Forum.

Speaking from a red, white and blue bedecked rostrum, Diaz Lanz outlined the insidious methods by which the leftists were able to gain power in his country.

"The Cuban people did not recognize the dangers before them. They are good-hearted people and do not understand the ruthlessness of these God-defying, barbarous murderers."

He mentioned it was shortly after the overthrow of the Batista government in Cuba before he became aware of the treasonous intentions of Castro. It was

then he fled the country.

Since his departure from Cuba and his entrance to the U. S., he has made a detailed study of the historical nature of the attempts to overthrow governments by international conspirators.

In studying the customary political machinations of the communist front, Diaz Lanz said he has come to see many of their evils at work within this country on top levels.

He bitterly attacked President Johnson and his welfare programs, saying they will spend us into bankruptcy, thus opening the door for a Red government here.

The Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department were branded as aiding and abetting the spread of the inter-

national menace through much of their policy and action.

In a surprising charge, Major Lanz said blackouts such as the one which occurred recently in the eastern section of the United States were frequent weapons also used by the conspirators to destroy the morale and confidence of the Cuban people.

He charged there was also a similar little-known blackout recently in the western U. S.

He charged the communistic government of Cuba was for some reason given shelter by the U. S. in its first stages and until it had a strong foothold in his native country. He said efforts by Cuban refugees in this country to regain control of their government were thwarted at every turn by Washington.

To remain strong in the face of Communism, Diaz Lanz

urged those present to maintain their belief in God and the American Constitution. "Anyone

who says the American Constitution should be changed is a person who doesn't believe in freedom."

He bitterly berated the trend toward centralization of power and warned this was a first step

as it was intended for the government to be servants of the people.

"I can't tell you Americans of the evils which lurk within your country and your government. I can merely warn you to look into the historical record, understand the symptoms and then look and judge for yourselves."

"In our country we learned too late," he declared.

Rev. David Barnhart, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, delivered the benediction; Mrs. Elizabeth Geer, served as mistress of ceremonies, and John Bedford led the pledge of allegiance. Donald E. Newcomer Jr. is chairman of the Erie Chapter of American Opinion Forum.